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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/08

SPONSOR Martinez, R.C. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE School Math & Science Supercomputer Training SB 217

ANALYST Cox

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

State Department of Public Education – PED

Department of Higher Education - HED

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill:

Senate Bill 217 would provide two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 for a statewide program that provides training in supercomputers for middle and high school students and improves teaching techniques in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2009 shall revert to the General Fund.

This request was not submitted by NM Tech to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$60,000.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes:

Providing students with opportunities to develop 21st Century skills means also providing access to 21st Century tools to develop these skills. The career clusters framework that is used to help all New Mexico students chart their careers emphasizes the integration of advanced technologies across the workforce. In terms of information technology applications, students must learn to:

- Use information technology to access, manage, integrate and create information
- Manage, analyze and report on interrelated data elements
- Facilitate group work through management of shared files and online information.

The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge has demonstrated that the student population served by this legislation can successfully complete advanced projects that can only be accomplished with supercomputers when provided adequate instruction and mentor support.

HED notes:

NM Tech is a long-time host of the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge. The Supercomputing Challenge provides a learning experience for teams of pre-college students in scientific inquiry, project management, computational analysis, and presentation skills. The challenge is a year-long statewide competition for prizes and scholarships. The goal by 2012 is to have at least one student team compete from each mid-school and high school in New Mexico and at least one teacher/sponsor with the necessary skills to support student teams.

According to the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge website (<http://www.challenge.nm.org/about/>), the opportunity to work on the most powerful computers in the world is currently available to only a very few students in the United States, so for New Mexico students, the program offers a unique experience. The Supercomputing Challenge is open to all interested students in grades 7 through 12 on a non-selective basis. Participants come from public, private, parochial, and home-based schools in all areas of New Mexico. The program has no grade point, class enrollment or computer experience prerequisites. The Supercomputing Challenge is offered at minimal cost to the participants or the school district. It is sponsored by a partnership of federal laboratories, universities, and businesses. They provide food and lodging for the kickoff conference during which students and teachers are shown how to use supercomputers, learn programming languages, how to analyze data, and write reports.

The funds from SB217 will be used to offset costs incurred by students and teachers for travel expenses to attend the supercomputing conference, which is held at the Glorieta Conference Center, Sandia National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. In addition to generating interest in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology applications, the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge allows participating universities like NM Tech to use the conference as a recruiting tool for New Mexico students who are interested in pursuing higher education in these fields.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Companion to HB131; related to HB 137.

PRC/mt